

R E M A R K S

As a preliminary matter, please assign this application new attorney document number 4007-003, and send all future correspondence relating to this application to Liniak Berenato & White, 6550 Rock Spring Drive, Suite 240, Bethesda, MD 20817. Filed herewith are executed Power of Attorney documents and a Rule 3.73(b) Statement. Thank you.

Claims 1-10, 12-17 and 19 are pending in this application, claims 11 and 18 having been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer and claim 19 having been added.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate features of now cancelled claim 18. The subject matter of claim 19 is supported in the specification at, for example, page 4, line 23. The amendment to claim 14 has been presented to address a typographical error. Applicant respectfully requests approval and entry of the amendments.

Applicant respectfully submits that the objection against claims 14-15 and 11 have been overcome by the foregoing amendment to claim 14 and the cancellation of claim 11. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-11 and 14-17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,911,191 to Bain.

Applicant notes that claim 18 was not subject to this Section 102(b) rejection. Claim 1 has been amended above to include the features of claim 18, now cancelled. For this reason, Applicant respectfully submits that the Section 102(b) rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn, and further respectfully submits that claims 2-10 and 14-17, which depend from claim 1 and incorporate all of the distinguishing features thereof, are therefore also patentable over Bain.

Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 10, 11, and 13-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,997,399 to Szatmary.

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The down-flow containment assembly recited in amended claim 1 comprises a barrier means extending from the upper surface at least to the floor on which the operator may stand. In contrast, the alleged barrier means (48, 26) of Szatmary does not extend to the floor or even substantially to the floor. Instead, the alleged barrier means (48, 26) terminates about at the operator's waist.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 1-6 and 13-17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,348,890 to Trexler.

Applicant notes that claim 18 was not subject to this Section 102(b) rejection. Claim 1 has been amended above to include the features of claim 18, now cancelled. For this reason, Applicant respectfully submits that the Section 102(b) rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn, and further respectfully submits that claims 2-6 and 13-17, which depend from claim 1 and incorporate all of the distinguishing features thereof, are therefore also patentable over Trexler.

Claims 1-6 and 11-17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,744,055 to Brendgord.

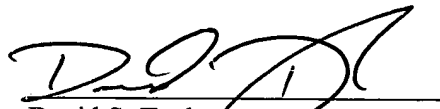
Applicant notes that claim 18 was not subject to this Section 102(b) rejection. Claim 1 has been amended above to include the features of claim 18, now cancelled. For this reason, Applicant respectfully submits that the Section 102(b) rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn, and further respectfully submits that claims 2-6 and 12-17, which depend from

claim 1 and incorporate all of the distinguishing features thereof, are therefore also patentable over Brendgord.

Finally, claim 19 depends from claim 1 and includes all of the distinguishing features thereof. As such, claim 19 is allowable.

If, after reviewing the above amendments and remarks, the Examiner has any questions, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned, by telephone, to schedule an interview to address such issues.

Respectfully submitted,


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